

TASK ONE (7 X 1 mark = 7 marks)

Read the following text and insert the missing paragraphs you will find at the end (A to I) into the most appropriate gap in the text. Each paragraph can only be used ONCE. There is one extra paragraph you will not need to use. Paragraph 0 is an example.

MARK

BROTHERS GRIMM FAIRY TALES WERE NEVER MEANT FOR KIDS

The world's most famous collection of children's stories began as an academic study for adults

Folktales are as old as human civilization itself. A synthesis of the spoken and the scripted, a fusion of different accounts of the same story. The story of Cinderella, for example, appeared in ancient China and in ancient Egypt. Details in the telling change depending on the storyteller's cultural origins. In Egypt, her slippers are red leather while in the West Indies, breadfruit, not a pumpkin, is the transformative object.

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In the brothers Grimm telling, the heroine is called Aschenputtel, and her wishes come true not from the wave of a fairy godmother's wand but from a hazel tree growing on her mother's grave. When the prince comes to find the dainty foot that will match the single slipper, the stepsisters do not shove and shriek.

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The brothers Grimm published what would become one of the most influential and famous collections of tales in the world. *Children's and Household Tales* are childhood-defining stories. The Grimms, however, had curated the collection as an academic anthology for scholars of German culture, not as a collection of bedtime stories for young readers. Amid the political and social turbulence of the Napoleonic Wars, Jacob and Wilhelm were driven by nationalism to highlight their homeland and heritage.

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Storytelling expressed thus the essence of German culture and recalled the spirit and basic values of its people. By excavating Germany's oral traditions, the brothers urgently sought to "preserve them from vanishing, to be forever silent in the tumult of our times".

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In 1796, the brothers' father died suddenly of pneumonia, plunging the once middle-class family of six children into poverty. Two years later, Jacob and Wilhelm left home to attend high school in Kassel, a privilege made possible by their aunt's financial support. After graduating, Jacob moved to Marburg in 1802 to study law at the university; Wilhelm followed a year later.

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Friedrich Karl von Savigny, a professor at the University of Marburg, sparked Jacob and Wilhelm's interest in German history and literature and the new field of philology, the study of language in historical texts. Savigny introduced the brothers to his scholarly circle of Clemens Brentano and Achim von Arnim, German writers influenced by Johann Gottfried von Herder, a philosopher who called for a rediscovery and preservation of *Volkspoesie*, the people's poetry.

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Arnim and Brentano had published a collection of old German folk songs, and Brentano, wanting to continue his philological pursuits, asked the Grimms for their help in combing library shelves for

folktales. The brothers found some texts in books, but they also focused on oral traditions, seeking out storytellers in friends and acquaintances.”

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Over a 40-year span, seven editions of the folktale collection were published. The final edition, published in 1857, is the best known and is notably different from the first in both style and content. Wilhelm expanded the originally shorter, sparser prose and modified plots to make parts of the dark, tragic stories more accessible to children. Beginning in 1815, illustrations were added to the books.

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The Grimms had not intended to publish a book of folktales. They wanted to resurrect the German oral tradition, but in the process, they ultimately curated a culturally encompassing collection of tales. Though the brothers became a household name because of it, *Children’s and Household Tales* was part of a bigger pursuit, to excavate and preserve the oral and written forms of German culture, to restore this treasure to the people.

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- A. Brentano did not use the 54 tales that Jacob and Wilhelm sent him in 1810, but Arnim urged them to publish their collection nonetheless. *Children’s and Household Tales* was not an immediate success, although it cemented their reputation as innovative scholars in the field.
- B. In 1805 Jacob worked as Savigny’s assistant in Paris, collecting documents on German customs, law, and literature. During their rare times apart, Jacob wrote to Wilhelm of his desire to devote his life to the study of German literary history.
- C. In the Grimm version of the tale Snow White the queen was punished for her crimes against the princess by being forced to wear red-hot iron shoes and to dance until she drops down dead.
- D. Like Cinderella and many of the characters in their folktales, the story of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm is a rags-to-riches one. The Grimms were born in Hanau, in the Holy Roman Empire’s state of Hesse-Kassel.
- E. The pair had entered the university intending to echo their father’s career in law and civil service. But identifying with the hardworking “folk”, whose language and stories they would later preserve and publish, they instead discovered a vocation that would define their lives and their legacy.
- F. The stories in the first edition are thus more faithful to the oral tradition than those in the last, which, together with Wilhelm’s adaptations, offered a more literary approach.
- G. *The story of Cinderella that appears in Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm’s collection of German folktales, first published in 1812, might shock those familiar with today’s version of a scullery maid turned princess.*
- H. They, however, dismember, one cutting off her big toe to try and make the shoe fit, the other cutting off part of her heel. Finally, the royal wedding includes two white birds, which rather than cheerfully tweet Cinderella on her way to happily ever after, peck out the stepsisters’ eyes.
- I. They were inspired by German Romantic authors and philosophers who believed that the purest forms of culture could be found in stories shared from generation to generation.

GAP	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PARAGRAPH	G							
	✓							